

**Bishop's Stortford Urban District
Council**



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1961

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Members of the Council, 1961-1962

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M.I.Chem.E.

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Public Health Department

EIRWEN M. HARRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

A. L. GOOD, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., A.I.Hsg.
Chief Public Health Inspector
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

H. W. CHILDS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

R. C. BROWN,
Pupil Public Health Inspector

MRS. C. THATCHER, *Until* 10.11.61

MRS. S. DREW, *From* 1.11.61
Clerk/Typist

A. TURNER,
Rodent Operator

Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council

Public Health Department,
The Council House,
Bishop's Stortford,
July, 1962

*To the Chairman and Members,
Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to submit the following Report for the year 1961, on the health of the Bishop's Stortford Urban District which has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Circular issued by the Ministry of Health.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population of 18,950 shows an increase of 720 over last year. This compares with an increase of 990 during 1960.

There was a rise in the birth rate and a very small increase in the death rate compared with the year 1960. The infantile mortality rate was lower than the previous year, there being six infant deaths under one year of age. Further detailed comment about infantile mortality is given later in the report.

602 notifications of infectious disease were received but 585 of these related to measles and this bi-annual outbreak was not unexpected. The absence of poliomyelitis for the fourth year in succession was most encouraging and is surely a tribute to the effectiveness of the vaccination campaign.

The total number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at the end of the year had fallen from 127 to 108. The majority of the cases removed from the register was in respect of patients who had been cured and this is a most encouraging sign.

1961 proved to be another year of good health and, whilst there are many contributing factors in this achievement, the fact that the town is completely surrounded by a large area of unspoiled countryside, is by no means insignificant. Here is a ready made " safety valve ", " barrier " and " filter " which must be maintained at all costs.

The opportunity has been taken for a brief study of the health of the town as it was just fifty years ago in 1911. This short digression which appears at the end of Section " A ", allows interesting comparisons to be made and permits the introduction of other relevant comment.

Finally, we desire to express our grateful thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council and to our departmental colleagues, for all the help and support, so willingly given.

We are,

Your obedient Servants,

EIRWEN M. HARRISON,

Medical Officer of Health

A. L. GOOD,

Chief Public Health Inspector

SECTION A

Statistics

(1) General

Area (acres)	3,826
Population	18,950
Rateable Value	£270,355
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£1,108
Number of Inhabited Houses	5,971
Density of Persons per Acre	4.95
„ Houses „	1.56
Average Number of Occupants per House	3.17

(2) Vital

	Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infantile Mortality Rate Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births
England and Wales	17.4	12.0	21.4
Bishop's Stortford	21.58	11.03	14.67

BIRTHS

Number of Legitimate Births	400
„ Illegitimate Births	9
Percentage of Illegitimate Births to Total Births	2.2
Total Number of Births, <i>Males</i> 209 <i>Females</i> 200	409

DEATHS

Total Number of Deaths	209
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(3) Mortality Table

Causes of Death		Males	Females	Total
	All Causes	96	113	209
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—	—
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease	—	1	1
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	3	8
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	1	3
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	9	9
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	2	2
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	5	10
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—
16	Diabetes	1	2	3
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	10	25	35
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	16	8	24
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	2	3
20	Other Heart Disease	8	8	16
21	Other Circulatory Disease	4	5	9
22	Influenza	5	5	10
23	Pneumonia	9	12	21
24	Bronchitis	2	6	8
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	1	4
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—	1
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	—	2	2
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	3
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	—	3
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations	2	2	4
32	Other defined and ill defined Diseases	8	12	20
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	—	4
34	All other Accidents	2	—	2
35	Suicide	3	1	4
36	Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
	Still Births	4	1	5
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (FIVE under 1 week of age)	4	2	6

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Six infants failed to survive during the first year of life and of these six, five did not live longer than 24 hours, while the sixth developed a fatal infection at the age of 2 months; this infant also suffered from congenital abnormality.

Three of these infants had marked congenital abnormalities while three were premature and for this reason failed to live for longer than 12-24 hours. It reflects well on the maternity services that infants are on the whole sturdy at birth, due to the constant surveillance of the mothers health during pregnancy and it could not be said that a single infant had succumbed during its first year as a result of any incident connected with the management of its birth.

It would not be amiss also to pay tribute to the general practitioners, health visiting and hospital services who dealt, without doubt, with numerous problems of health in the first year group and overcame them without fatal results.

(4) 1911-1961. A Few Comparisons

In our present era of the Welfare State and of comparative physical good health in which there is an increasing awareness of mental health problems, it is easy to forget the contributions which have been made by small authorities such as Bishop's Stortford in achieving conditions as they exist today and it is for this reason that an effort has been made in this short dissertation to draw brief comparisons between conditions today and those which existed in the town in 1911.

The population of the town was 8,723 as compared with 18,950 in 1961 and although the morning train service to London caused concern to the Council then there is no doubt that the Urban District now has a far higher proportion of commuters among its population than there were then. The number of inhabited dwellings was 1,925 as compared with 5,971 while the average number of occupants per dwelling has fallen from 4.5 in 1911 to 3.17 in 1961, but the acreage has only increased from 3,285 acres to 3,826 acres.

The state of public health provides interesting material. The birth rate has not varied very much but the infantile mortality rate was 113 per 1,000 births as compared with 14.67 and during 1911 eleven premature infants succumbed. The nett death rate compared favourably with the present

rate but a total of 15 died of tuberculosis. Dr. Robert Dunn, the Medical Officer of Health was concerned about the milk supplies and longed for the legislation which he hoped was forthcoming to control them. From that year tuberculosis of the lung became compulsorily notifiable in all cases — not only in the poor or in hospital inmates. The Medical Officer stated that it was through education and our nursing services that the disease was to be controlled. He would be well pleased with our nursing services, the pasteurisation of milk and overjoyed at the results which have been achieved in the curative and preventive fields against tuberculosis.

Although smallpox was causing concern in the country in the early months of 1911 Bishop's Stortford and the neighbouring districts were not affected, but it was still necessary to have a hospital set aside within the district for isolating and treating sufferers from this disease. Diphtheria appeared regularly in addition to scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough in the early years of the century and for the first time diphtheria antitoxin for the treatment of this disease became available free upon the order of a medical practitioner. Prevention by immunisation was not to come to Bishop's Stortford for another 28 years.

Summer diarrhoea was a dreaded menace and the hot summer of fifty years ago helped to contribute to the anxieties of parents and doctors and seven children died as a result of this illness. Flies were recognised to contribute largely to its spread and the Council encouraged the provision of adequate dustbins throughout the town. Formal notices were served on the defaulting owners in September, 1911. Horse traffic with resultant manure deposits on gravelled roads also helped to spread this disease.

There were eight cowsheds, nine dairies and six slaughterhouses within the Urban District and 1961 saw the closure of the one remaining slaughterhouse. Two Common Lodging houses took in increasing numbers of inmates; and their condition did not appear to be entirely satisfactory. Canal boats came up the river and were inspected regularly. The Council were alert in respect of unfit houses and several cottages were closed and they took clear cut action to have defects repaired in tenanted houses and to increase the number of flushing W.C's in dwellings. Considerable concern was also shown about the inadequacy and the unsatisfactory condition of the Bathing Place near Northgate End and it was decided that a new swimming pool was required but

some years were to pass before a new pool was built.

Sewage was treated on the present sewage farm and apart from an increase in acreage there has been little change though the subject has been under discussion for many years. It was stated in that year's report that no sewage flowed into the river. Tipping of refuse has again recommenced on the site used at that time.

Reappointment of the Medical Officer at the end of his usual three year term was considered by the Council. He requested that his new appointment be for a term of six years as Medical Officers who became unpopular through carrying out their duties conscientiously, sometimes found themselves in danger of losing their employment at the end of their term. His new appointment was for six years to serve the Sanitary District only and to discontinue working on County Health services in the schools. This situation still holds in the East Herts Combined Districts with the exception of Bishop's Stortford and Hertford Rural Districts who later came to employ Medical Officers undertaking County Council Health duties. His duties must have been arduous to provide community care for 67,155 people in a large area.

The local press of 1911 bore no relation to the present day paper but it was full of national and local information and the reporting of council affairs was detailed and accurate, debates being often quoted in full.

Health hints for the home such as applying hot onions for earache featured frequently in the "Home" column, but two noteworthy topical health articles appeared during the year. One covered the methods to be adopted in nursing tuberculosis at home and the second discussed methods of preventing summer diarrhoea; neither of these articles would be out of place today.

The present Medical Officer found great interest in ascertaining these facts mentioned from Council Minutes, the Herts & Essex Observer and the report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1911.

SECTION B

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

(1) Notifiable Diseases

Notifications of the following infectious diseases were received during the year:

Disease	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 60	Over Sixty
Dysentery	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Infective Hepatitis	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	585	7	129	162	272	11	1	2	1
Pneumonia	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Dysentery	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	140	309	96	24	9	3	3	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

The measles epidemic which was heralded in December 1960 developed into an all time record and struck heavily in children from 1-9 years of age. On the whole the symptoms were relatively mild and no reports were obtained of an undue number of complications.

Other notifiable infectious diseases were practically non-existent and during the months of September, October and November a nil return was made to the Health Committee and The Registrar General.

(2) Tuberculosis

	MALES		FEMALES		Totals
	Pul.	Non-P	Pul.	Non-P	
Cases on Register at 31.12.60..	56	7	54	10	127
Number of Cases Notified during Year	2	—	1	—	3
Inward Transfer	4	—	2	—	6
Cases Removed	15	2	11	—	28
Cases on Register at 31.12.61..	47	5	46	10	108

(3) Food Poisoning

A single case of food poisoning occurred in a housewife. The infection was found to be due to a salmonella type organism but subsequent repeated sampling produced negative results.

(4) Dysentery

Four cases of dysentery from one family were notified in March. The symptoms originated with a boy of 7 years of age and over a period of ten days three remaining members of the household became infected, but the original infected boy required the longest period of surveillance. The final negative report was received within one month of the first notification.

(5) Prophylactic Measures

Triple vaccine against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus continued to be made available by the County Health Authority at the Infant Welfare Centre and at the private practitioners surgeries and generally, parents availed themselves of the opportunity of protecting their infants.

Vaccination against smallpox was also available in the same premises as was protection against poliomyelitis in the form of "Salk" type vaccine by injection. The long awaited oral vaccine did not come into use during 1961.

B.C.G. immunisation against tuberculosis continued to be offered to children in all schools at the age of 13 years.

(6) Refuse Collection and Disposal

The disposal of refuse by means of controlled tipping

was continued during the year at the Council's refuse tip in Hallingbury Road. The shortage of suitable tipping space is an acute problem facing the Council and is a matter which is receiving urgent consideration.

(7) Drainage and Sewerage

Following the successful completion of the new sewer from the Regent Cinema in South Street to the new pumping station at Southmill, more detailed consideration was given to the question of sewage disposal. The Hallingbury Road sewage works were becoming overloaded and the recommendation of the Engineer and Surveyor for the construction of a new gravity sewer from Southmill to a discharge point at the Rye Meads Disposal Works, was accepted by the Council.

(8) Water Supply

The report of the Public Analyst in respect of a sample of drinking water taken from a house in the town is given below.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

	Physical Characters ...	Good
	Reaction	pH 7.1
THE SAMPLE CONTAINED:—		parts per 100,000
Chloride ... ..	...	3.3
Ammonia (Free and Saline) ... ..	...	absent
Ammonia (Albuminoid) ... ..	...	0.0004
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs at 37°C ... ..	...	0.0394
Nitrates (expressed as Nitrogen) ... ..	...	absent
Nitrites ... ..	...	absent
Poisonous Metals ... ..	...	absent
Total Hardness ... ..	...	24.1

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls.

Number of micro-organisms per ml
developing at 37°C= nil

Number of micro-organisms per ml
developing at 21°C= nil

MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION OF DEPOSIT

None

INFERENCE

The results obtained on the analysis of this sample do not show any evidences of pollution with harmful organic or inorganic matter.

I am of the opinion that this water is fit for drinking purposes.

S. GREENBURGH,

20th February, 1961

Public Analyst.

60 samples of drinking water were submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Five of these samples, taken from a few houses in one Street, were reported upon as unsatisfactory and the matter was referred to the Lee Valley Water Company. The fault was traced to an end-section of the water main which was subsequently cleaned and flushed. Follow-up samples were satisfactory. 4 samples of drinking water were also submitted to the Public Analyst at Cambridge for chemical and bacteriological examination. All four samples were reported upon as satisfactory.

(9) Swimming Pools

66 samples of water were taken from the Council's swimming pool and from the indoor and outdoor swimming pools at Bishop's Stortford College and submitted for bacteriological examination. Two samples from the College indoor pool were reported upon as unsatisfactory. Follow-up samples were, however, found to be satisfactory.

(10) Mass Radiography

Once again the Mass Radiography Unit visited the town and their stay extended to cover two weeks from Monday, June 12th, 1961 to Friday, June 23rd, 1961. It was decided owing to the greater mobility of the present unit, to hold sessions at various strategic points in the town. Three days were spent on the Causeway Car Park, two days at the Station Road Car Park, one day at the Waggon & Horses and one at Oxford House. A whole day was spent at the works of Millars' Machinery Company and another at Bishop's Stortford College. It was proved to have been worth while. 4,148 attendances were made as compared with 2,188 in 1958, but when the increase in population is considered, better figures could have been achieved. Many still fear a diagnosis of tuberculosis and do not realise that it no longer augers long periods of invalidism but that there is every hope of an effective cure and an early return to working life. Statistical results of the survey are shown in the tables below.

TABLE 1

TOTAL NUMBER X-RAYED

1958			1961		
MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
948	1240	2188	2014	2134	4148

TABLE 2

GROUPS IN WHICH PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS WAS DISCOVERED		Male	Female	Total
Requiring immediate treatment—	Organised Groups	1	—	1
	Public	1	—	1
Requiring occasional clinic supervision—	Public	3	1	4
Presumed healed, no further action required	Referred by G.P.	1	—	1
	Organised Groups	1	—	1
AMONG OTHER ABNORMALITIES DISCOVERED WERE—		Male	Female	Total
Carcinoma of breast—metastases of lung and mediastinum		—	1	1
Benign mediastinal tumour		1	—	1
Sarcoidosis		1	1	2
Acquired abnormalities of heart and vessels		1	6	7
Pneumonitis		—	1	1
Emphysema		—	1	1
Pulmonary fibrosis — Non T.B.		3	—	3
Pleural thickening or calcification—Non T.B.		2	1	3
Did not attend for repeat miniature film		1	1	2
Not yet classified		1	—	1

(11) The Health Centre, Market Square

In February 1961 the new County Council Health Centre was occupied. This was the first time that Bishop's Stortford had a centre where all local Health Authority services could be provided under one roof. Previously health activities had been divided between the premises at 25a, Portland Road which was too small and Water Lane Institute which had been the home of the Infant Welfare Clinic since its inception in 1916.

The conversion of the "Drill Hall" has been an outstanding success and the building is popular both with the public and the staff. Ante Natal Clinics, Relaxation Classes for expectant mothers, Infant Welfare Clinics, Child Guidance Clinics, Chiropody Clinics and a Dental Service are provided regularly. The Home Help Service is also based at the Centre. A Centre where workers can meet and co-ordinate their work has proved its worth.

SECTION C

Public Health Administration

(1) Inspection of the District

7,678 visits to all types of premises were carried out during the year, the details of which are given below. Here, in statistical form, is a brief outline of the wide variety of work undertaken by the Department.

Total number of Visits	...	...	...	...	7,678
Dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	600
Revisits to houses for housing defects	...	...	...	...	2,722
Houses inspected—Rent Act	...	...	...	...	1
Premises inspected on Complaint or Nuisance	...	...	...	...	195
Drainage and Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	396
Stables and Piggeries...	...	...	...	...	7
Markets	...	...	...	...	152
Factories (Power and Non-Power)	...	...	...	...	43
Factories Act—Building Sites	...	...	...	...	3
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	15
Workplaces, Offices and Shops	...	...	...	...	150
Schools	...	...	...	...	3
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	15
Water Supply and Sampling	...	...	...	...	142
Swimming Pool and Sampling	...	...	...	...	41
Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	19
Infectious Diseases and Disinfection	...	...	...	...	21
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	19
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	106
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	267
Vermin and Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	60
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	49
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	...	...	341
Interviews with Owners, Builders, etc.	...	...	...	...	779
Meat and Food Inspection—Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	283
Shops and Stalls	...	...	...	...	141
Wholesalers, Canteens, etc.	...	...	...	...	71
Butchers	...	...	...	...	53
Dairies and Milk Distributors	...	...	...	...	13
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	43
Cafés, Restaurants and Canteens	...	...	...	...	72

Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Ice Cream Premises and Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Street Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	378
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Sugar Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Other Food Premises and Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Ice Cream Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Other Foods Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

(2) Special Premises

Particulars of the number and type of all the special premises on the register at the end of 1961 are given below:—

Factories

(a) With Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	110
(b) Without Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	4

Food Premises

Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Canteens							
(a) Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
(b) Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
(c) Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Clubs							
(a) Non-Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b) Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Dairymen and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fishmongers							
(a) Wet and Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Wet Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(c) Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Grocers							
(a) Non-Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
(b) Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Restaurants							
(a) Non-Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
(b) Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sugar Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

Non Food Shops

Antiques	2
Boots and Shoes	7
Chemists	7
Clothiers	20
Electrical Goods	5
Florists	3
Furnishers	8
Hairdressers	12
Ironmongers	6
Jewellers	5
Leather Goods	2
Milliners	5
Newsagents	3
Opticians	3
Pet Shops and Seed Merchants	4
Radio and Television	8
Stationers	4
Toys	4
Wall Paper	4
<i>Workplaces</i>	40

(3) Complaints and Matters Referred

Complaints received	1,119
Complaints investigated	1,080
Complaints referred to other Departments and Authorities	39
Other matters referred to other Departments and Authorities	18

(4) Testing of Drains and Sanitary Fittings

Drains tested with water	8
Drains tested with other means	82

(5) Notices Served and the Results of the Service of such Notices

<i>(a) Preliminary Notices</i>	No. Served	No. Com- plied with
(i) Dwelling Houses for Housing Defects	61	101
(ii) Special Premises (shops, factories, etc.)	7	11
<i>(b) Statutory Notices</i>		

See Housing Section for Details.

N.B.—The number of notices complied with includes notices outstanding from the previous year.

(6) Summary of Improvements Effected

	At Dwelling Houses	At Food Premises	At Shops, Offices, Hotels, etc.
Accumulations removed	3	1	—
Artificial lighting provided	—	—	—
Ceilings repaired	32	5	—
Chimney stacks repaired or renewed	29	—	—
Dampness remedied	22	11	—
Disinfections and Disinfestations ...	189	20	53
Doorsteps provided or improved ...	7	4	—
Doors repaired or renewed	30	8	1
Drains cleared or repaired	37	—	—
Drain inspection chambers provided, renewed or improved	10	4	1
Drains laid or Drains relaid	10	4	4
Drain ventilation provided or improved	7	1	1
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed ...	53	4	2
External decoration	3	—	—
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	11	2	—
Floors repaired or renewed	26	8	—
Food stores provided or improved ...	2	1	—
Garden walls or fences provided or improved	16	2	—
Gulleys provided	10	4	1
Handrails provided to stairs	9	—	—
Outbuildings or other structures demolished	—	3	—
Roofs repaired	72	4	—
Rooms decorated and cleansed	20	23	—
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	24	4	3
Staircases repaired or renewed	4	—	—
Sub-floor ventilation improved	—	—	—
Ventilation improved (air brick) ...	—	—	—
Wall plaster repaired	54	15	—
Walls repaired or renewed (Internal)	56	15	—
Walls repaired or renewed (External)	68	7	—
Washing coppers provided or im- proved	6	—	—
Windows provided or improved	72	6	—
Yard paving provided or improved...	14	2	1
WATER CLOSETS			
Artificial lighting provided	4	4	—
Cisterns repaired	7	4	—
Compartments provided/rebuilt	4	4	1
Flushpipe joints repaired	3	—	—
Improved	11	4	3
Pedestals provided	8	4	2
Seats repaired or renewed	7	4	2

Summary of Improvements Effected—contd.

	At Dwelling Houses	At Food Premises	At Shops, Offices, Hotels, etc.
WATER SUPPLY			
Hot water supply provided or improved	3	3	—
Internal water supply provided	4	4	—
Sinks, baths or basins provided	16	7	—
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	18	7	3
Water butts provided	8	—	—
Water supply pipes repaired or renewed	13	4	—
FOOD PREMISES			
Clothing lockers provided	—	1	—
Equipment provided or improved	—	4	—
First Aid kit provided	—	2	—
Food display improved	—	4	—
Food handling improved	—	6	—
Refrigerator provided	—	1	—
Soap, towels, etc. provided	—	2	—
Smoking—cautions given	—	1	—
W.C. notices posted	—	1	—
Name and Address Board (Street Markets)	—	27	—
Open Food Displayed on the Ground	—	3	—
Wearing of Protective Clothing	—	—	—

(7) Disinfection and Disinfestation

262 properties were disinfested and 218 wasp's nests were destroyed during the year.

(8) Atmospheric Pollution

The interesting and very important study of air pollution in the town continued throughout the year. A second recording station, sited in the Cemetery Office, came into operation on the 1st May, 1961, with a view to the study of pollution in a residential part of the town, away from the concentration of road vehicles. The subsequent comparative study of the results recorded at both stations, should be of real value.

Table I gives details of the average figures of smoke and sulphur dioxide pollution for the six worst sites, the six best

sites and the average for the whole country (co-operating authorities only) for the year ending 31st March, 1958. The average figures for Bishop's Stortford, recorded at the No. 1 Station, are also given in similar form for comparative purposes. Whilst the average concentration of smoke and sulphur dioxide pollution cannot be regarded as excessive, some reduction in the level of pollution nearer to that of the six best sites, would be most welcome. Table II gives details of the average, highest and lowest values for smoke and sulphur dioxide for each month of the year as recorded at both stations. Averages for the year are also shown at the bottom of the table, but until the No. 2 Station has been in operation for a full year, any comparison of the results would be premature.

TABLE 1

**Department of Scientific and Industrial Research
Warren Spring Laboratory**

**Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution
31st Report—Year ending 31st March, 1958**

	SMOKE			SULPHUR DIOXIDE		
	Winter	Summer	Yearly Average	Winter	Summer	Yearly Average
Average for six worst sites	710	380	550	486	257	372
Average for whole country (Co-operating Authorities only)	270	120	200	257	143	200
Average for six best sites...	20	10	20	57	29	57
Average for Bishop's Stort- ford No. 1 Station (1st January—31st December, 1961)	120	35	78	110	47	78

CONCENTRATIONS EXPRESSED IN MICROGRAMMES PER CUBIC METRE

TABLE 2

Atmospheric Pollution
Average monthly figures of concentrations
recorded at Council House — Station No. 1

1961	SMOKE			SULPHUR DIOXIDE		
	Average Value	Highest Value	Lowest Value	Average Value	Highest Value	Lowest Value
JANUARY	130	320	40	126	349	40
FEBRUARY	110	210	40	123	398	40
MARCH	130	350	30	137	337	46
APRIL	58	140	24	66	212	9
MAY	33	82	8	45	97	9
JUNE	30	48	6	44	114	11
JULY	24	42	11	39	86	11
AUGUST	24	46	13	36	83	14
SEPTEMBER	42	104	8	49	114	23
OCTOBER	67	160	13	70	114	31
NOVEMBER	124	424	4	93	241	24
DECEMBER	161	496	48	109	261	40
AVERAGES for YEAR ..	78	202	20	78	201	25

CONCENTRATIONS EXPRESSED IN MICROGRAMMES PER CUBIC METRE

Atmospheric Pollution
Average monthly figures of concentrations
recorded at Cemetery — Station No. 2

1961	SMOKE			SULPHUR DIOXIDE		
	Average Value	Highest Value	Lowest Value	Average Value	Highest Value	Lowest Value
JANUARY	—	—	—	—	—	—
FEBRUARY	—	—	—	—	—	—
MARCH	—	—	—	—	—	—
APRIL	—	—	—	—	—	—
MAY	26	51	11	35	69	6
JUNE	18	41	7	34	103	9
JULY	15	36	0	31	69	0
AUGUST	10	23	2	31	126	11
SEPTEMBER	26	76	8	39	117	17
OCTOBER	49	118	14	57	109	20
NOVEMBER	127	412	20	91	245	19
DECEMBER	189	468	12	129	262	24
AVERAGES (part year) ..	58	153	9	56	138	13

CONCENTRATIONS EXPRESSED IN MICROGRAMMES PER CUBIC METRE

THE STANDING CONFERENCE OF CO-OPERATING BODIES

The Standing Conference which meets twice yearly to discuss and study all the problems of atmospheric pollution, is represented by local authorities and by government departments, firms and organisations throughout the British Isles. The Director of the Warren Spring Laboratory, having read with great interest the report dealing with the investigation of atmospheric pollution in Bishop's Stortford, invited the Chief Public Health Inspector to present the report as a paper to the 56th meeting of the conference, which was held in London on 29th May, 1961. 600 copies of the paper, including the coloured drawings, were prepared in the office.

The paper, having been previously circulated by the Secretary to all the members of the Standing Conference, was very well received and produced an interesting and constructive discussion. This unique opportunity was an honour to the Public Health Department for the deep interest taken in this important study but, it was also a recognition of the practical help and encouragement given by the members of the Council. The Director of the Warren Spring Laboratory, taking part in the discussion, expressed the hope that other local authorities would follow the example set by Bishop's Stortford and carry out local investigations of atmospheric pollution.

(9) Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) FOOD HYGIENE

The standard of food hygiene continued to improve during the year and this was particularly noticeable from the constructional aspect of food premises. Many food traders in the town have, in recent years, been quite prepared to go beyond the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations and have co-operated with the local authority to a very high degree. The department has encouraged the idea of installing refrigerated window and counter displays as an ideal method of storage prior to sale. Cooked meats and other perishable foods, in particular the type eaten without further preparation and cooking, can thus be served to the customer, clean and fresh.

The marked increase in the volume of frozen foods now sold has called for special attention. A careful watch has been maintained in order to ensure that frozen food cabinets are not overloaded and temperature checks have also been carried out. In this latter regard it is of interest to point out that all the frozen food cabinet thermometers checked, were accurate to about one degree fahrenheit.

(b) **MARKETS**

The weekly inspection of the street market, cattle market, rabbit and poultry market and the covered market, continued throughout the year. In this work, detailed attention is always given to the manner in which food is handled and sold, bearing in mind the greater possible risks of contamination. The standard maintained by the market traders is reasonably high and very few complaints are received.

(c) **MILK SUPPLY**

The dairies responsible for the milk supply in the town have once again achieved the distinction of failing to produce an unsatisfactory sample of bottled milk. May this fine standard long continue.

The local dairy, in conjunction with the County Council, co-operated in an experiment of delivering milk in cartons to a number of schools.

There are advantages when delivering milk in this way, but until the cost is reduced to a comparable level with the widely used milk bottle, the latter will continue to be the accepted container. Moreover, the modern bottle washing plant has achieved a bacteriological standard which is very near to perfection.

106 samples of bottled milk and 34 samples of cream were taken in course of delivery to the consumer during the year and submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for examination. All samples were reported upon as satisfactory.

Designation	No. of Samples Taken	No. Satis- factory	No. Unsatis- factory
Pasteurised Milk	29	29	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk ...	54	54	—
Sterilised Milk	23	23	—
Cream	34	34	—

(d) **MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE-CREAM**

Sixty-five premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream and this represents an increase of seven over the previous year.

Bacteriological Examination

26 samples of ice cream and 26 ice lollies were submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and all the samples were found to be satisfactory.

(e) MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION

Ten premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the preparation and manufacture of preserved food as follows:—

Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sausages and Brawn	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sausages and Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meat Pickling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cooked Hams	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

1,001 animals were killed at the private slaughterhouse, 4, South Street, during the half year ended 30th June, 1961, the date when the slaughterhouse was closed in accordance with the Slaughterhouse Report approved by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Fuller details of the carcasses inspected and condemned are given in the tables overleaf.

(f) MISCELLANEOUS FOOD SAMPLING

65 Samples of various foods were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory and all were reported upon as satisfactory. The types of food sampled were beef, chocolate flavoured drink, dessicated coconut, gravy, orange drink, tinned anchovies and "yogurt".

(g) DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

Meat condemned at the slaughterhouse was collected by a reputable firm for processing and manufacture into animal foods, fertilisers, glue and soap. All the other unsound food was disposed of under supervision on the Council's controlled tip, full details of which are given in the appropriate tables.

The total amount of food condemned during the year was 3.8674 tons, a very slight increase over the previous year, when the figure was 3.7536 tons.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	161	2	40	400	398
Number Inspected	161	2	40	400	398
All Diseases except Tubercu- losis and Cysticercosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	3	1
Weight in lb. condemned ...	—	—	85	199	22
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	26	—	2	19	90
Weight in lb. condemned ...	346	—	27	56	425
Percentage affected	16.149	—	7.5	5.5	22.864
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	7
Weight in lb. condemned ...	30	—	—	—	61
Percentage affected	1.242	—	—	—	1.759
Cysticercosis only:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned ...	63	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	3	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected	1.863	—	—	—	—

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CONDEMNED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

At Slaughterhouse

Meat... .. 1,314 lbs. or 0.5866 tons

At Food Shops and Wholesale Premises

Tinned Meat and Other Foods 3,702 lbs. or 1.6527 tons

Meat and Other Foods ... 2,274 lbs. or 1.0152 tons

Frozen Meat and Other Foods 1,373 lbs. or 0.6129 tons

Total 8,663 lbs. or 3.8674 tons

DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
Heads and Tongues	140 lb.	—	—	60 lb.	200 lb.
Lungs	69 lb.	4 lb.	20 lb.	78 lb.	171 lb.
Hearts	6 lb.	2 lb.	6 lb.	12 lb.	26 lb.
Livers	203 lb.	28 lb.	41 lb.	80 lb.	352 lb.
Kidneys	—	—	—	3 lb.	3 lb.
Spleens	—	—	1 lb.	1 lb.	2 lb.
Mesenterys ..	18 lb.	—	—	3 lb.	21 lb.
Udders	—	—	—	26 lb.	26 lb.
Legs	—	—	—	98 lb.	98 lb.
Carcase Meat ..	3 lb.	78 lb.	187 lb.	147 lb.	415 lb.
Totals	439 lb.	112 lb.	255 lb.	508 lb.	1314 lb.

UNSOUD TINNED FOODS

Description	Weight		No. of Tins	Description	Weight		No of Tins
	lb.	oz.			lb.	oz.	
Apples ..	13	3	3	Meat ..	8	—	13
Apricots ..	162	14	75	Meat Puddings	2	—	2
Asparagus ..	—	7	1	Milk ..	98	13	107
Baby Foods ..	—	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	Mutton ..	48	—	15
Beans ..	214	8	195	Oranges ..	185	2	175
Beef ..	1	7	2	Peaches ..	167	12	118
Beetroot ..	3	1	3	Pears ..	105	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	74
Bilberries ..	—	14	1	Peas ..	251	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	176
Blackberries	10	10	11	Pilchards ..	21	—	26
Cabbage ..	9	10	11	Pineapple ..	207	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	183
Carrots ..	7	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	Plums ..	55	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	46
Cherries ..	31	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	44	Pork ..	320	—	75
Cod ..	2	10	3	Prunes ..	3	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	6
Coffee ..	—	2	1	Raspberries	2	2	2
Corn (Sweet)	1	—	1	Rhubarb ..	3	2	3
Corned Beef	285	—	79	Rice ..	26	7	27
Corned Mutton	6	4	4	Salmon ..	9	11	25
Crab ..	—	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	3	Sardines ..	2	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	6
Cream ..	4	10	13	Shrimps ..	7	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	49
Damsons ..	—	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	Soup ..	36	8	36
Fish ..	1	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	Spaghetti ..	5	12	6
Fruit Salad ..	176	8	177	Spam ..	—	12	1
Gherkins ..	1	13	1	Steak ..	45	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	49
Gooseberries	6	10	1	Steak & Kidney	3	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	5
Grapefruit ..	111	9	100	Stew ..	4	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	5
Grapes ..	1	—	1	Strawberries	2	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6
Greengages ..	1	4	1	Tomatoes ..	460	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	612
Ham ..	443	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	54	Tuna ..	—	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	2
Kidneys ..	—	12	1	Tongue ..	2	8	3
Loganberries	23	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	24	Veal ..	24	—	4
Luncheon Meat	50	7	68	Vegetables ..	6	4	8
Marmalade ..	5	8	3	Total ..	3701	12$\frac{1}{2}$	2763

UNSOUND OTHER FOODS

Description	Weight		Description	Weight	
	lb.	oz.		lb.	oz.
Bacon	51	4	Kidneys	2	—
Bananas	309	8	Lamb	256	—
Beef	81	—	Liver	6	—
Biscuits (131 pkts.) ..	118	4	Meat	11	—
Bread (372 loaves) ..	470	8	Meat Croquettes(58)	11	1
Butter Beans	110	—	Meat Pies (21) ..	7	8
Cake (74 boxes) ..	232	2	Pork	155	4
Currants (1 pkt.) ..	1	—	Prunes (7 pkts.) ..	5	4
Cake Fruit (19 pkts.)	14	4	Rabbit	30	—
Cheese	14	—	Radish Relish (2 jars)	—	8
Chickens (17)	29	11	Salad Cream (1 jar)	—	7
Corned Beef	1	—	Sausages	63	—
Dried Fruit (1 pkt.) ..	1	—	Suet (284 pkts.) ..	70	14
Fish Croquettes (36)	7	10	Sultanas (50 pkts.)	37	8
Flour (1 pkt.)	3	—	Tea (12 pkts.) ..	3	—
Ham	19	—	Turkey (1)	10	8
Jam (7 jars)	7	—	Veal	134	—
			Total	2274	1

UNSOUND FROZEN FOODS

Description	Weight		No. of Packets
	lb.	oz.	
Confectionery	89	9½	196
Fish	518	4½	973
Fruit	125	5	297
Meat	283	9¾	564
Vegetables	356	9	735
Total ..	1373	5¾	2765

Unsound Tinned Foods ... 3,701 lb. 12½ oz.

Unsound Other Foods ... 2,274 lb. 1 oz.

Unsound Frozen Foods ... 1,373 lb. 5¾ oz.

Total ... 7,349 lb. 3¼ oz. or 3.281 tons

(10) Rodent Control

(i) Disinfestation of Sewers

During recent years, the sewers have not been found to be seriously infested. Test baiting and treatment will, however, be carried out during 1962.

(ii) *Disinfestation of Surface Properties*

Number of Dwelling Houses treated	...	...	143
„ Business Premises treated	...	...	79
„ Council Premises treated	...	...	11
„ Agricultural Premises treated	...	...	14
„ Pre-baits laid	...	...	6
„ Pre-baits partly taken	...	...	4
„ „ completely taken	...	...	2
„ Poison Baits laid	...	...	3,457
„ „ „ partly taken	...	...	1,474
„ „ „ completely taken	...	...	659
„ Bodies recovered (a) rats	...	...	404
„ „ „ (b) mice	...	...	66
Total number of visits made by the operator			1,756

1961 proved to be a peak year for the rat population in surface properties and the higher degree of infestation was prevalent throughout the greater part of East Anglia. This period was a testing time for the efficiency of the Council's rodent control service. Suffice it to say, however, that the heavier than normal infestations were not only contained within the respective areas, but a 31% increase in rat destruction over the previous year was recorded.

It is thought that the infestation increase, particularly noticeable in the agricultural areas of the district, was a direct result of the rather mild preceding winter period. A possible theory is that the rats were able to winter in the fields and hedgerows and were not forced to seek shelter during the winter, in and around the various farm buildings, where they would have been more vulnerable to rodent control measures.

(11) **The Storage of Petroleum Spirit**

Sixty-two premises were licensed by the Council for the storage of petroleum spirit and the fees received in respect of these licences amounted to £45.

(12) **The Provision of Dustbins**

439 dustbins were provided by the Council during the year, making a total of 5,405 dustbins supplied since the scheme was put into operation in July, 1954.

During the year, the Health Committee gave very serious consideration to the Paper Sack System for the storage and

disposal of refuse. The Council subsequently confirmed the recommendation of the Committee, to introduce the first stage of the scheme in the Council Houses on the Havers Lane Estate. A total of about 800 houses was involved, representing a single day's collection.

The first stage has been extremely successful and has paved the way towards the ultimate target of dustless collection and disposal of refuse throughout the town. The public health benefits are many and even if the final scheme does prove to be a little more costly, there will most certainly be a "credit balance" in the "Health Account".

(13) Pet Animals Act, 1951

Three licences were renewed by the Council during the year in respect of the keeping of pet shops.

(14) Factories Act, 1937

Forty-six visits were made to the factories on the register and it was found necessary in two instances to serve informal notices where contraventions existed.

Thirty-seven outworkers were employed during the year by the various factories in the district, a decrease of 14 over the previous year.

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	4	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	110	43	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	11	3	1	—
TOTAL	125	46	2	—

2. CASES in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of Cases in which Defects were found				No of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s 1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (s 2)...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (s 3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (s 4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (s 6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (s 7):					
(a) insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	2	2	—	—	—

(15) Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) By the Local Authority ... 49

(b) By Private Enterprise ... 178

Number of houses made available by conversion or adaptation of existing buildings ... Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1957

A Statutory Notice under Section 16, Housing Act, 1957, was served during the year in respect of the following dwelling house.

The Bungalow, New Farm, Gipsy Lane.

HOUSES RENDERED FIT

101 houses were rendered fit during the year by the owners following the service of informal notices. Two houses were also rendered fit by the owners after formal action under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936 and Section 16, Housing Act, 1957. 1,002 items of repair received attention in this way.

HOUSES CLOSED

The houses listed below were closed during the year.

26, 40 Firlands.

52, 54, 56, 76 London Road.

9 Newtown Road.

HOUSES DEMOLISHED

8 houses were demolished during the year, details of which are given below.

1, 3, 5, 7, 9 Chapel Row.

68, 76, 78 London Road.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT SURVEY

The detailed inspection of all the older privately-owned houses in the town, which was started in 1957, continued during the year and 1,074 houses had been inspected under this survey by the end of 1961, leaving approximately 500 houses still to be examined.

This interesting and worthwhile task has proved to be most beneficial, a total of 516 Informal Notices being served upon Owners and 6,035 housing defects remedied as a direct result. 181 houses have already been fully improved and 288 partially improved whilst 536 houses still require full improvement and 69 houses were found to be unsuitable for improvement.

An interesting feature of the survey has been the ready and willing acceptance of the Owners of the 24 flats at 108, Hadham Road to agree to the request for the repair and improvement of all the flats. This work had reached an advanced stage of completion by the end of the year. The Council gave valuable assistance to the Owners by re-housing two families during the year. This action enabled the repairs and improvements in these two particular flats to be carried out more expeditiously and also presented the opportunity to the Owners to transfer tenants from other flats where the existing internal layouts required replanning.

(16) The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

A site licence was issued by the Council during the year in respect of a four-berth trailer caravan, stationed at Start Hill Farm. The licence remained in force until the 31st December, 1961, this being the date when the planning permission expired.